DUBLIN SOCIETY.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 1 December 1837;—*for*,

COPIES of the COMMUNICATIONS which have taken place between the IRISH GOVERNMENT or the TREASURY, and the ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, since the Report of the Select Committee on the Dublin Society was laid upon the Table of the House; also, a Statement showing how far the Recommendations of that Committee have been complied with.

COPY of a LETTER from the Treasury to the Royal Dublin Society.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 24 August 1836.

I HAVE received the commands of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith a copy of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Royal Dublin Society, in order that it may be taken into early consideration, and that my Lords may be informed whether any and what practical measures have been founded thereon, before they propose a further vote to Parliament.

My Lords feel it their duty to notice the first resolution (p. xix.) by which it appears that the Select Committee did not consider itself in a situation to pronounce any opinion on the legal question, how far the property of the Royal Dublin Society, partly acquired by former Parliamentary grants and partly from private subscriptions, be of the nature of public property.

My Lords feel that if they do not call the attention of the Society to this resolution, a misconception might arise, that would preclude the possibility of proposing further votes to Parliament; for if it could be thought that the Dublin Society were authorized to dispose of the property which has been acquired mainly through the liberality of Parliament, or apply it to any other use, my Lords are of opinion that a most dangerous principle would be admitted.

It is therefore the decided opinion of my Lords, that no such diversion of the property now held by the Dublin Society could be permitted, except with the knowledge and consent of this Board, and by sanction of law, but that the whole must be held to be a trust for the benefit of the public, and with a view to the useful objects for which the Parliamentary votes were made.

My Lords feel confident that in these opinions the Royal Dublin Society will entirely concur; but they deem an immediate reply on the subject as necessary to be considered before further issues from the Treasury are directed.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Y. Spearman.*

To the Secretary
of the Royal Dublin Society.

COPY of an ANSWER thereto from the Royal Dublin Society.

Sir, Royal Dublin Society, 30 August 1836.

I AM directed by the special committee of the Royal Dublin Society to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, transmitting, by command of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a copy of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Royal Dublin Society, in order that it may be taken into early consideration, and calling the special attention of the Society to the first resolution (p. xix.) of said Report, and requiring "an immediate reply on that subject, as necessary before further issues from the Treasury are directed."

With respect to the Report at large, and the adoption of practical measures founded thereon, I am instructed to state, that as the Society is by its charter precluded from modifying the old, or enacting new bye-laws, except at a "stated general meeting," the earliest day that could be fixed for taking the Report into consideration,

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consideration, with a view to practical measures, would be the second Thursday in November.

With respect to the questions involved in the first resolution, and the immediate reply thereto deemed necessary by my Lords, I am instructed to say distinctly, on the part of the special committee, that though the Society have never at any time contemplated as possible the contingency of applying to individual purposes the property of the Society, whether arising from public or private sources, and thus diverting the same from chartered objects, viz. the promotion of husbandry and other useful arts in Ireland, yet that the special committee will, if deemed necessary by my Lords, convene an extraordinary meeting of the Society, for the purpose of expressing their opinion thereupon, although at this season of the year it would be both inconvenient and difficult to secure a meeting of the Society, sufficiently respectable in point of numbers, to afford my Lords the satisfaction they would require.

By Order,
(signed) *P. T. Wilson,*
Acting for Assisting Secretary.

A. Y. Spearman, Esq.,
Acting Sec. to the Lords of the Treasury.

Copy of a Letter from the Treasury to the Royal Dublin Society.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 20 Sept. 1836.

Having laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury your letter, as secretary to the Royal Dublin Society, dated 30th ult., I have it in command to acquaint you that my Lords are unwilling to subject the Society to any inconvenience that may be avoided, and they therefore consent to the proposition contained in your said letter, that the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Royal Dublin Society generally, as well as the resolution to which the attention of the Society was specially called in the letter from this Board of the 24th August last, should be considered in the month of November next, according to the forms prescribed by the constitution of the Society; but that until such meeting has been held, and the result of its deliberation has been brought under the notice of this Board, no further issue will be made upon account of the sum voted in the last Session of Parliament, beyond that which has already been received by the Society from the Exchequer in Dublin.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Rang.*

P. Wilson, Esq.,
Acting for Assist. Sec. Royal Dublin Society, Dublin.

Copy of a Report from the Special Committee of the Royal Dublin Society, ordered to be communicated to the Lords of the Treasury, and to Lord *Morpeth,* Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, on the 10th November 1836.

The special committee appointed on the 10th day of March last, and further empowered, on the 17th day of March, "to inquire and report whether any, and what alterations should be made in the bye-laws, in reference to the existing committees, and the mode of managing the affairs of the Society," and further empowered, on the 14th April following, to act for the Society in any emergency: Having considered and examined into the matters referred to them, have now to report:—

That—In consequence of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the administration of the Royal Dublin Society, your committee conceived it expedient to defer the consideration of the matters referred to them until that Committee should have made its Report.

A copy of that Report having been received by the Society, accompanied by a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 24th of August last, and these documents, together with a further letter from the Secretary to the Treasury, dated the 20th of September, having been laid before your committee, they at once proceeded to consider the several changes therein proposed to be made in the constitution and administration of the affairs of the Society.

Your

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Your committee have perceived with pleasure that the Select Committee of the House of Commons, after an unusually full and laborious examination of four months' continuance, have seen no reason to accredit any of the statements or insinuations so long and so industriously circulated to injure the Society.

Your committee, in considering the important subject submitted to them, have been influenced by the same motives and feelings which are expressed in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, which states—"That they have been guided solely by a desire to place that institution on such footing as will entitle it to the entire confidence and support of the public, and render it, more fully than it has yet been, an instrument in aiding the education of the people, and the improvement of the country, and are united in a desire to render the Royal Dublin Society a national institution, of which Ireland may justly feel proud."

Your committee recommend to the Society to meet the wishes expressed in the resolutions of the Committee of the House of Commons, whenever it can be done without a violation of the charter, or an obvious sacrifice of the best interests of the institution; and, acting in this spirit, they recommend to the Society to make such changes in the bye-laws as shall be necessary to carry into effect a very large majority of the resolutions of that Committee.

Your committee, however, beg leave to state, that in the case of some of these resolutions they have been induced to recommend such changes, more from a desire to defer to the expressed opinion of the Committee of the House of Commons, than from any conviction of the necessity of the proposed alterations.

Your committee now proceed to submit to the Society the observations which have occurred to them with respect to the resolutions, *seriatim*.

First Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That this Committee is not in a situation to pronounce any opinion upon the legal question, how far the property of the Royal Dublin Society, partly acquired by former Parliamentary grants and partly out of the funds arising from private subscriptions, be of the nature of public property; but they are of opinion that it is expedient, that in reference to future Parliamentary grants, it should be fully understood that the members composing that Society are to be considered as trustees administering a public fund, and not as entitled to an absolute right of proprietorship in the property acquired by means of such Parliamentary grants; and in reference to the existing property, that a clear and distinct guarantee should be given by the Society, that the public should be entitled to the full and entire use of that property as at present enjoyed.

Upon this resolution your committee beg to observe, that as far as it involves a legal question, it appears to them that there can be no doubt, from the terms of the original charter, by which the Society and their successors are enabled "to purchase, have, receive, and enjoy lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to the value of 1,000*l.* per annum, and also all manner of goods and chattels, and to *any value whatsoever*," that the property in land not exceeding the limit assigned by the charter, and in goods to any amount, belonging to the Society, whether arising from subscriptions of its members, gifts from individuals, or grants from Parliament, are possessed by them in absolute right; but as in the performance of the duties assigned to the Society by the charter, the property must be employed in promoting the national objects for which it was incorporated, and is so administered at their entire discretion by the Society, it may be said, so far, to partake of the character of a trust.

The Society does not claim, nor has it ever claimed, the right of disposing of any portion of its property to the private advantage of any of its members, or to any object foreign to those for which it has been founded and incorporated. The administration of its funds for above 100 years having sufficiently attested the integrity of the Society in discharge of the trust reposed in it, and the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, so recently made, not having imputed to it a single instance of malversation, your committee submit that no further guarantee can be necessary or ought to be required, in reference to its existing property, or for the performance of the duties it has undertaken; nor are your committee aware that this Society could offer any guarantee more effectual or binding than its character, as composed of men holding an honourable situation in society, and those obligations by which it is bound to perform its duties; this Society, like any other chartered body founded for particular objects,

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objects, being subject to the control of the courts of justice, if it should misapply its funds to improper purposes.

Your committee are further of opinion, that under the charter the Society has not authority to transfer any trust confided to it, and that if it possessed such power, any proposition to part with it would imply a want of confidence in the Society, which your committee are of opinion is not merited, and that a concession of the nature proposed, by appearing to sanction the imputation on which it is founded, would degrade the character of the Society, and eventually extinguish it.

Your committee, therefore, submit to the Society, that it cannot and ought not to consent to any surrender of its property, but should abide by the charter in its true spirit and integrity, convinced of its entire adequacy to the objects for which it has been granted.

With respect to any future Parliamentary grants to this Society, it is of course in the power of Parliament to annex what conditions it may think proper to them; and it will remain for the Society to determine whether it shall deem it expedient to accept the grants with the conditions annexed or not, a decision which your committee cannot at present anticipate; but your committee observe, that with respect to the greater portion of the annual grant made of late years, it is administered in the manner stated in the estimate approved by the Treasury, and is absorbed by the current expenditure of the year; and with the exception of a trifling addition to the library and museum, constitutes no increase to the permanent property of the Society.

Second Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the admission of all respectable individuals to a participation in the advantages arising from the Parliamentary grant to the Royal Dublin Society is most desirable; and in order to guard against the capricious exercise of the power of rejection, it is advisable that its bye-laws should be reconsidered, and that hereafter no individual be excluded notwithstanding one-third of the members present may have voted for his rejection, unless at least 40 members shall have voted against his admission; and as regards the admission fee, that it be left optional whether the candidate shall pay a life composition of 20 guineas, or a fee of five guineas, and two guineas annual subscription; and that persons admitted on these terms shall cease to be members if at any time their annual subscriptions shall be one year in arrear, unless the party so in arrear shall make a declaration in writing to the council that he has been absent from the kingdom during the period for which the arrear has been incurred.

That associate subscribers should be admitted to the Society for the term of one year, upon the recommendation of two members of the council, on payment of two guineas, which payment must be made at the time of admission.

Your committee recommend that the bye-laws should be altered, so as to give effect to these recommendations.

Third Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the management of the ordinary business of the Society should be confided to a council, but that it may be competent for 30 members to call a general meeting of the Society, when any subject of importance requires consideration, upon giving a notice by advertisement, at least 14 days previous to the day of meeting, of the time at which it will be held, and of the subject to be entertained.

That no such meeting shall be called between the 1st of August and 1st of November, and that there shall be no adjournment of such meeting without a new notice.

That the council should be formed by the union of the following committees, each of which should consist of three members elected by the Society, one member of each committee to go out annually, and that the council should be empowered to associate with each committee not more than three members of the council.

1. Committee of Fine Arts.
2. — of Natural Philosophy, and its application to the Useful Arts.
3. — of Chemistry, ditto.

4. Committee

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4. Committee of Mineralogy and Geology, with its application to the useful Arts.
5. — of Botany and Natural History.
6. Committee of Agriculture.
7. — of Statistics.
8. — of Accounts and Domestic Arrangements.

That at an early period in each year an estimate should be presented for sanction to a general meeting of the Society, of the expenditure which will be required in each department of the Society's operations, and that no deviation from that estimate should take place, to an extent greater than 50 *l.*, in the province of any one committee, without the sanction of the Society at large, except upon an extraordinary occasion, when the consent of the Treasury shall be required.

That it should be the duty of each committee to report to the council upon all matters relating to the department over which it presides, and that all recommendations emanating from the committees should be subject to the final sanction of the whole council.

With regard to this resolution, your committee are of opinion, that the Society may adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons, so far as to confiding the management of the ordinary business of the Society to a council, provided that the powers of such council be strictly defined and limited, so as not to exclude the direct control over its proceedings upon the part of the Society at large, and your committee submit that the council and committees of management shall consist of and be formed as follows:—

1. Botany and Horticulture.
2. Chemistry, with its application to the Useful Arts.
3. Natural Philosophy and Mechanics.
4. Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy, and charge of the Museum.
5. Fine Arts.
6. Library.
7. Agriculture and Husbandry.
8. Manufactures.
9. Statistics.

That the several committees be chosen annually by ballot; that each committee shall choose its chairman, who with one other member thereof, to be also elected by each committee respectively, shall be members of the council.

That the council shall consist of the seven vice-presidents and two honorary secretaries, the chairman and one other member of each committee, to be elected as before stated, and of nine members, to be elected by ballot, by and from the Society at large.

Your committee are of opinion, that with a view to assure to the Society at large the strictest responsibility as well as efficiency on the part of the council, objects specially recommended by the Committee of the House of Commons, it will be necessary to hold monthly meetings, besides the stated general meetings directed by charter, for special purposes, except during the usual recess.

Fourth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the Dublin Society should be considered as the great central association for the diffusion throughout Ireland of a knowledge of practical science, and of all improvements in agriculture, horticulture, and the arts, and that it should place itself in communication with all local societies founded with a view to similar objects, affording to them assistance, encouragement, and information, and receiving from them in return periodical reports of their proceedings.

Your committee are persuaded that nothing could be more agreeable to the wishes of the Royal Dublin Society than to have the means and opportunity afforded to it of acting most fully upon the views expressed in this resolution.

Fifth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the Dublin Society should be enabled, upon application, to send down qualified persons to give lectures in the provincial towns, whenever the travelling expenses of the lecturer and a reasonable proportion of his remuneration shall be locally subscribed by the parties making the application.

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Your committee recommend that the Society should adopt this resolution, and be prepared to act upon it, whenever any local institutions, such as are therein referred to, shall take the necessary steps for enabling the Royal Dublin Society to meet their wishes.

Sixth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the botanic garden should be made, as much as possible, a school for young gardeners seeking instruction in horticulture.

Your committee recommend that the Society shall adopt, in the fullest manner, the views expressed in this resolution, regard being had to such funds as may be at the disposal of the Society for the purpose; and they have to observe, that these recommendations have been already, in a great measure, anticipated by the Society.

Seventh Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the museum, the botanic garden, and the lawn, should be open to the public for study or enjoyment, under regulations to be framed by the council.

On this your committee have to observe, that the museum and the botanic garden have been hitherto open to the public, subject to regulations. Your committee recommend that it should be left to the council to adopt any further regulations they may deem expedient, with a view to carrying into further effect the views which seem to have been entertained by the Committee of the House of Commons.

Eighth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That books should not be lent out of the library; and that for the convenience of persons desirous to consult the books in the library, a reading-room should be appointed, to which persons not belonging to the Society should have access by special permission of the council.

Your committee recommend that the lending out of scientific books to members of the Society should not be continued, except subject to such restrictions and regulations as the library committee may deem proper; they cannot think that it would be expedient to discontinue it in all possible cases, and that it should be an object of the Society to procure such a reading-room as is described in the resolution, regard being had to the accommodation actually required for the other objects of the institution.

Ninth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That the public should be gratuitously admitted to at least one of the courses of lectures given by each professor during the year, and that such gratuitous course should be given in the evening, in order to encourage the attendance of persons engaged during the day in industrious occupations.

It has ever been the wish, as it has been the practice of the Society, to give the public admission to all its lectures; and your committee recommend that the experiment of evening courses should again be made, in deference to the wish of the Committee of the House of Commons.

Tenth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That each committee should periodically publish reports of its proceedings; and that the council should, by selection from the papers read at the evening scientific meetings, or by the compilation of such other interesting and useful information as they may think it desirable to communicate to the public, cause to be printed, from time to time, publications, which should be accessible to the public by purchase.

Your committee recommend the adoption of this resolution.

Eleventh Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That newspapers and political periodicals should no longer be taken into the Society's room, whether procured by special private subscriptions, or paid for out of the general funds of the Society.

It appears to your committee, that in the present state of the diffusion of knowledge the exclusion of newspapers from your reading-room would be hardly reconcilable

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reconcilable with a desire to be informed of the daily occurring improvements and discoveries in almost every branch of science, arts, and manufactures, as well as agriculture; and that at a period when the reading of newspapers, generally, has received legislative encouragement, by the great reduction of stamp-duties, it would seem inconsistent to apply a different rule to the members of the Royal Dublin Society, and to deprive them of this advantage. Your committee cannot, therefore, recommend to the Society to discontinue a practice which has prevailed from the earliest period of its existence, and which has not been attended with any evil whatever, that your committee is aware of, but your committee recommend that no newspapers be purchased out of any grant of the public money.

Twelfth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That measures should be taken for securing increased activity and efficiency in the management of all the schools, and that they should be made instrumental rather in giving instruction in the useful and mechanical department of the arts than in those which are purely ornamental.

Your committee recommend to the Society to give effect to this resolution.

Thirteenth Resolution of the Committee of the House of Commons.

That, in order to form a national museum adequate to the public wants, it is necessary to provide larger accommodation for the exhibition of objects than the present rooms of the Dublin Society are capable of affording, and that such increased accommodation can with advantage be provided by an extension of the buildings of the Society's present house.

Your committee can have no doubt that it will be a most gratifying discharge of duty, on the part of the Royal Dublin Society, to co-operate, by every means in their power, for the attainment of these objects; but it seems hardly necessary to observe, that a considerable extension of the pecuniary means of the Society would be indispensable for the purpose.

In offering the foregoing observations on the Report and Resolutions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons for the consideration of the Society, your committee trust, that while they have evinced, on the one hand, a sincere desire to see the several changes and modifications therein suggested adopted in the true spirit thereof, in almost every case, the Society will be of opinion that they have not recommended any alterations or any concession that can prove injurious to the character or to the best interests of the Society.

(signed) *Robert Shaw*, V. P. *Henry Kemmis.*
Isaac Weld, Hon. Sec. *William Harty.*
Edward Stanley. *J. R. Cooke.*
F. Hort. *Henry Carey.*
William Smith.

Ordered, That the secretaries be directed to transmit copies of the report of the special committee, as embodying the opinion of the Society upon the subjects therein considered, to the Lords of the Treasury, and to Lord Morpeth, Chief Secretary to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Copy of a Letter from the Treasury, enclosing Copy of a Treasury Minute.

Gentlemen, Treasury Chambers, 29 November 1836.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having had under consideration a report of the special committee of the Royal Dublin Society on the Report and Resolutions of the Committee of the House of Commons, and of the proceedings of the Society thereon, forwarded with your letter of the 15th instant, I have it in command to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of their Lordships' Minute of the 26th instant upon this subject.

I am, &c.

The Royal Dublin Society. (signed) *A. Y. Spearman.*

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COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 26 November 1836.

My Lords read the report from the Dublin Society, together with several Reports from Select Committees of the House of Commons, referred to in the margin.

With respect to the several resolutions relating to the internal arrangement of the Society, my Lords suspend their opinion till they have received the judgment of the Irish Government thereon.

Refer this report to Lord Morpeth, requesting that his Lordship will bring it under the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant, in order that my Lords may be favoured with his opinion, whether the resolutions of the Society are such as will advance the objects of its institution, carrying into effect the intentions of the Committee.

But with respect to the first resolution, which would seem to claim for the Dublin Society a right of ownership, acquired for the most part by Parliamentary grants, my Lords feel that a much clearer and more distinct admission must be called for from the Society, than any which they can collect from the papers before them. This question, it should be recollected, is not raised by this Board, but by the Select Committee of the House of Commons; neither is it limited to the case of the Dublin Society, but becomes important, as affecting other institutions aided in the whole or in part from the public purse.

If it can be held desirable, in reference to grants of this description, that an absolute right of ownership exists, it behoves the Treasury to act with much more of caution in reference to grants of public money proposed to Parliament. These grants, amounting, as they have done, to no less a sum than 276,154 *l.* since the year 1800, my Lords consider to have been made on the supposition, not that an absolute right of ownership could be considered as vested in the Society, but as subject to a public trust, for the public benefit, and with a view to the objects of the charter.

My Lords therefore consider that it would be contrary to the principles on which these grants could be justified, if the property of the Society could be alienated or sold without the consent of this Board, at the same time they are far from imputing any intention to act contrary to their public duty as likely to influence the decisions of the Society; but my Lords are bound to maintain a public principle, which they would not feel justified in abandoning. They cannot, therefore, feel justified in proposing any further vote to Parliament, without an unequivocal admission that the property of the Society is held for the public use of the institution only, and that no absolute right of proprietorship is claimed, and that such property cannot be sold, or in any way alienated, without the consent of my Lords, but that the public shall be entitled to the full and entire use thereof.

My Lords beg that it may be distinctly understood, that by the terms of this Minute they are far from implying any distrust of the Society, but as the question has been raised, it must be disposed of in a manner clear and satisfactory.

It must be obvious to the Society that my Lords would not be justified in proposing the continuance of this or any other similar grant, if a right of ownership was possessed, or claimed, and if, consequently, institutions supported at the public expense could, after acquiring property by Parliamentary grants, be broken up or appropriated for other and dissimilar uses.

It is, therefore, with a view to the perpetuation of the Dublin Society in its offices and duties of usefulness that, before proposing any renewed grant, my Lords feel it to be their bounden duty to have all doubts on this subject removed and a full guarantee given to them by the resolutions of the Society.

COPY of the RESOLUTIONS of the Royal Dublin Society on the foregoing Minute, communicated to the Treasury and to the Irish Government the 26th December 1836.

Resolved, That with respect to the specific admission which is required by the Lords of the Treasury, touching the right of property at present possessed by the Society as a chartered body, as the Society does not claim, nor has it ever claimed,

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claimed, the right of disposing of any portion of its property to the private advantage of any of its members, or to any object foreign to those for which it has been founded and incorporated, they therefore cannot feel any hesitation in admitting, in the fullest and most unequivocal manner, "that they hold their property subject to a public trust, and for the public benefit, with a view to the objects of the charter, and for the public use of the institution *only*."

Beyond this the Society feel they cannot go, consistently with their charter and duty; and they take the liberty of adding, that if the Society, who hold whatever they possess as a corporate body solely for the purposes which their charter warrants, were by any act or declaration of theirs voluntarily to surrender any power they have over that property, even to the Crown itself, they would then indeed be guilty of a breach of the duty which they owe alike to themselves and the public, and be unworthy of any public trust.

(signed) *James W. L. Naper*, V. P. Chairman.
Robert Shaw, V. P. *Henry Carey.*
J. D. Jackson, V. P. *Anthony Mayler.*
Henry Kemmis, V. P. *Fenton Hort.*
R. B. Bryan, Hon. Sec. *J. R. Cooke.*
Thomas Wallace. *William Smith.*
Edward Stanley. *Villiers B. Fowler.*

And at a subsequent meeting of this committee the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, That with respect to *future grants* to this corporation, to enable them to support the institutions which are at present maintained by Parliamentary grants, on Parliamentary estimates, or such other objects as Parliament may hereafter recommend to their attention, for the promotion of practical science, the manufactures, agriculture or general industry of Ireland, the Society will consider and admit it to be their bounden duty faithfully and zealously to apply them according to their best discretion and judgment, guided by their charter, to the objects or purposes for which they shall be so appropriated by the Legislature, and to none other. But they would most respectfully add, that even should such future grants, from any misconception or misrepresentation of the conduct or intentions of the Society, be withheld, (which for the sake of the Irish public they would deeply deplore,) the Society would still conceive it to be their duty, and would endeavour, upon a reduced scale, but to the utmost limit of their diminished means, to continue to promote those valuable objects, for which they were originally incorporated.

(signed) *Robert Shaw*, V. P., Chairman.

Copy of a Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Dublin Society to the Lords of Treasury.

My Lords, Royal Dublin Society, 8 March 1837.

The Royal Dublin Society having expended on the various objects of the institution the sum of 3,000*l.* of the Parliamentary grant of the last Session, issued by the Treasury in August last, and having urgent occasion for the balance, viz. 2,300*l.* for the discharge of its engagements, and the salaries of its professors and officers, did, on the 28th January last, address the usual memorial to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, praying that his Excellency might be pleased to direct the issue thereof to be placed to the credit of the Society in the Bank of Ireland; and a considerable time having elapsed without such issue being made, or any communication received from his Excellency on the subject, while the demands of the Society became more urgent, the Society, on the 23d February, directed a letter to be written to Mr. Drummond, requesting him to move his Excellency to order such issue as speedily as might be convenient, inasmuch as the financial year was about to close, many pressing engagements remained to be fulfilled, and that the salaries of officers and professors would become due this month, for which there was no provision; to which letter an answer has been received on the 4th instant, stating "that his Excellency had no power to comply with the prayer of the memorial of 28th January, in consequence

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quence of directions from your Lordships," of which fact the Society remained uninformed till the 4th March..

The Royal Dublin Society beg leave to represent to your Lordships, that it was communicated to them by a Treasury Minute of 13th September 1836, that until the stated general meeting of the Society in the month of November of that year should have taken place, and the result of its deliberations of said Treasury Minute had been brought under the notice of your Lordships, no further issue would be made on account of the sum voted in the last Session of Parliament beyond the 3,000 *l.* issued in August 1836. That such stated general meeting of the Society was held accordingly on the 10th November, and the subject to which its attention was specially directed by your Lordships received the fullest and most respectful consideration, and the result thereof was communicated to your Lordships, by order of the Society, as early as it was practicable, viz. on the 10th November.

That a further communication from your Lordships, by a Treasury Minute of 26th November, was subsequently received, requiring additional explanation on one particular point, viz. the first Resolution of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and stating that your Lordships had referred the remainder of the subject for the opinion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to which communication the Society transmitted an answer, in the form of resolutions, on the 26th December last, since which period no notification has been received as to whether the explanation given by the Society was satisfactory to your Lordships or not, nor of the opinion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on the remaining parts of the subject.

The Royal Dublin Society begs leave further to represent to your Lordships, that in consequence of this state of ignorance as to your Lordships' opinions and intentions, or of the opinion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the uncertainty as to what may be the future situation of the Society, together with the total destitution of funds, the operations and exertions of the Society have been paralyzed, and they have been unable to act on any of the recommendations or suggestions contained in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

That in addition to the deficiency of funds, occasioned by the withholding of so large a proportion of the Parliamentary grant of last year, the Society has also experienced, in consequence of the circumstance already alluded to, an almost total failure of that branch of its usual income arising from the admission fees of members, nine candidates only having come forward for admission since 1st April last; the amount received under that head being only 189 *l.*, although the amount received from the same source for the three preceding years was as follows:

Year ending March	1834	£. 1,533
—	1835	1,365
—	1836	1,344

Giving an average of 1,414 *l.* per annum.

That thus the means of the Society to carry on the important objects of its institution have been reduced to a trifling sum, not even sufficient to keep up the premises in repair, to maintain the several establishments of the Society, and to pay the salaries of its officers and professors.

The Society, therefore, respectfully requests that your Lordships may take the premises into your consideration, and give directions to the Vice-Treasurer of Ireland for an immediate issue of the balance of the last Parliamentary grant of 2,300 *l.*

By Order,

(signed) *Ed. Hardman*, Assist. Secretary.

Copy of a Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Dublin Society to the Lords of the Treasury.

My Lords, Royal Dublin Society, 10 April 1837.

The Royal Dublin Society, in their representation of the 8th March last, had the honour of stating to your Lordships that considerable embarrassment had been

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been felt by the Society from the non-issue of the balance of 2,300 *l.* of the Parliamentary grant of 1836; and the Society at the same time respectfully requested your Lordships to take the matter into consideration, and to be pleased to enable the Society to fulfil its engagements.

To this representation the Royal Dublin Society has not yet been honoured with any answer.

I am directed therefore respectfully to renew the request of the Society, and to express a hope that your Lordships may be pleased to consider the following facts:

That in consequence of the non-issue of the balance in question, the engagements of the Society for the expenses of the last quarter, amounting to nearly 1,400 *l.* remain unfulfilled; that the tradesmen and others to whom money is due, are daily importuning for the payment of their accounts:

That in addition to those outstanding engagements, the current expenses of the several branches of the institution would require a supply to maintain them, in any degree; for which purpose the remainder of the balance would be scarcely sufficient up to the period at which the Society might expect to be in the receipt of any part of any new grant, which it may be your Lordships pleasure to recommend to Parliament. That in particular, the establishment of the botanic garden requires a constant and considerable expense, and that without the means of meeting such, very great and immediate injury to the garden must ensue, more especially at this season of the year:

That besides the defalcation of funds, arising from the suspension of part of the last grant, the Society has sustained an actual loss of nearly 1,400 *l.* (calculated on the average of three preceeding years) under the head of "admission fees," in consequence of the uncertainty in which the situation of the Society has been involved.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Hardman*, Assist. Secretary.

Copy of a Resolution of the Royal Dublin Society respecting the alienation of Property, communicated to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 11th May 1837.

Resolved, That whilst the Society doubt their legal authority to make a bye-law to the effect of the guarantee required by the Minute of the Treasury, they are, for themselves, willing to admit, that in consideration of the Parliamentary grants made to the Society, it is but just and reasonable that they should not alienate their property without the approval of the Lords of the Treasury.

(signed) *Fenton Hort*, Chairman.

Copy of a Letter from the Treasury to the Royal Dublin Society, stating the Order for the issue of Balance of last Year's Grant.

My Lords and Gentlemen, Treasury Chambers, 19 June 1837.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having had before them the unanimous resolution of the Royal Dublin Society of the 11th ultimo, "That whilst the Society doubt their legal authority to make a bye-law to the effect of a guarantee required by the Minute of this Board, they are, for themselves, willing to admit, that in consideration of the Parliamentary grants made to the Society, it is but just and reasonable that they should not alienate their property without the approval of this Board," I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that as it appears that the Society have been withheld from making a bye-law to the same effect, solely by the reason of their doubt how far they are legally empowered to make such a bye-law, their Lordships have directed the Paymaster of Civil Services in Dublin to pay to the proper officer of the Society the remainder of the grant for 1836-7, in compliance with your previous applications to that effect.

 I am

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I am at the same time desired to state that my Lords will, for your information and government, take the opinion of the law-officers of the Crown as to your legal authority to make a bye-law to the effect of the guarantee required.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Y. Spearman.*

Royal Dublin Society, 21 December, 1837. } *Ed. Hardman*, Assist. Secretary.

STATEMENT showing how far the Recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Royal Dublin Society have been complied with.

REPORT of the special committee and of the committee of agriculture jointly, adopted and confirmed by the Society on the 2d February 1837, praying for the sum of 1,000 *l.*, in addition to the estimate, to carry into effect the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, transmitted to the Lords of the Treasury.

The special committee and the committee of agriculture have to report to the Society, that having further considered the resolutions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, to which the Lords of the Treasury have adverted in their communications touching the state of the Society, and having also considered the answers given by the Society to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, submit to the Society, that it would be expedient, in order still further to evince the willingness and anxiety of the Society to comply with the expressed desire of the Select Committee of the House of Commons and of the Lords of the Treasury, "that the Society should become as extensively useful to the public, in respect to practical science and improvements in agriculture and statistics, as possible," that the Society should forthwith apply to the Lords of the Treasury for a sum of 1,000*l.*, in addition to the estimates already prepared and furnished, "to enable them to place the Society efficiently in communication with the local societies already existing, founded with a view to the promotion of agricultural knowledge, and to afford them assistance, encouragement, and information, and receive from them in return periodical reports of their proceedings." (*See* the 4th resolution.)

Also, to make the Society "still more extensively and efficiently useful; to apply itself to the collection and diffusion of statistical information, by inviting and encouraging societies and individuals in the provincial towns in Ireland to supply the Society with statistical information respecting their respective districts, in order that the Society may be enabled to deduce, from comparison and collection of such information, general results in a succinct form."

Thomas Wallace, Chairman.

At a stated general meeting of the Royal Dublin Society, held pursuant to charter on the 9th November 1837, and by adjournment on the two following Thursdays, viz. 16th and 23d of November, the following alterations and amendments of the bye-laws were proposed and agreed to, subject to confirmation by the Society at its next stated general meeting, agreeably to charter :—

Resolved, That the bye-law No. 2, be rescinded, and the following adopted:

That all elections for members shall be at the stated or ordinary meetings of the Society, between the hours of two and four o'clock, and no person shall be proposed as a candidate unless he shall be recommended by at least two members, and the name, place of abode, and addition of the person recommended shall be delivered, in writing, to the chairman, signed by the proposers, and at the next meeting he may be balloted for, during which time his name and addition shall be posted up in some public part of the Society's rooms, and if two-thirds of the members then voting shall ballot in favour of him, he shall be admitted a member. He shall also be admitted a member if a majority shall vote in his favour, unless it shall appear that 40 have voted against him.

Resolved, That the following bye-law be adopted:

That the management of the business of the Society be confided to a council, the powers of such council to be strictly, as hereafter, defined and limited, and subject

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subject to the direct control over its proceedings upon the part of the Society at large; and that the council and committees of management shall consist of and be formed as follows:

Standing committees each to consist of nine members; to preside over the following departments: viz.

1. Botany and Horticulture.
2. Chemistry, with its application to the Useful Arts.
3. Natural Philosophy and Mechanics.
4. Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy, and charge of the Museum.
5. Fine Arts.
6. Library.
7. Agriculture and Husbandry.
8. Manufactures.
9. Statistics.

Resolved, That the powers and duties of the council shall be as follows:

1st. That the business of the Society be in future committed to the management of the council, who shall exercise a general superintendence over the affairs, officers, and servants of the Society, and over every branch of its establishment; and shall have power to make such orders and regulations for the management thereof as it shall deem necessary or expedient (the same not being contrary to the existing laws of the Society), with such restrictions as are hereinafter mentioned; such orders and regulations to be subject to the control of the Society as hereinafter more particularly stated.

2d. That the house committee and committee of economy do cease, from and after the appointment of a council, and that the duties thereof thenceforth shall devolve on the council.

That the several other committees do continue and transact the business of their respective departments as heretofore, with such modifications as may hereafter be provided.

3d. That the several committees do report their proceedings, from time to time, to the council, which reports shall be laid before the Society at its meetings by the council.

4th. That the council shall have power, at its discretion, to require from each committee that the Minutes of its proceedings be laid before it, and shall also be empowered to make such references as it shall think proper to any committee upon any matters within its department; and the committee so referred to shall be bound to make a report on the subject of such reference to the council, who shall be enabled to make such orders or regulations thereon, with the concurrence of the committee, as it shall deem expedient, the same not being contrary to the existing laws of the Society, which order or regulation shall then be carried into effect; provided that the council shall make no order or new regulation on any matter within the department of such committee, without the concurrence of said committee.

(An amendment having been here moved to add the words "and the approbation of the Board," the amendment was negatived).

Provided also, that if the council and the committee of any department shall not concur in any new regulation or order in such department proposed by the council, the same shall be referred to the Society, who shall make such order thereon as it shall think proper, which shall be carried into effect by the council and committee respectively.

5th. That the Society shall have power and authority to rescind or alter any order or regulation of the council of a prospective nature, at the meeting of the Society next but one after such order or regulation shall have been made; but no order or regulation of the council shall be altered or rescinded, unless notice of a motion to that effect be given, at least seven days before the said meeting of the Society, at which same may be altered or rescinded; such notice to be given in writing, and signed by the mover, to the assistant secretary, to be by him posted in a conspicuous part of the Society's conversation-room.

6th. That the council shall hold its meetings weekly, with power to adjourn on public holidays, and at any time in the summer recess, not exceeding three months, and that seven members do constitute a quorum.

7th. That the council shall cause Minutes of all its proceedings to be entered in a book, such book to be accessible to the members of the Society, and that the

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the council shall specially report to the Society at each of its stated general meetings.

8th. That in case of any emergency, requiring an expenditure which could not properly be delayed from one meeting of the Society to another, the council be empowered to expend a sum not exceeding 50*l.* on any given object.

9th. That at each meeting of the Society the proceedings of the council since the preceding meeting of the Society be read.

10th. The council shall have power to make bye-laws for its own regulation, provided such bye-laws be not opposed or repugnant to the charter or bye-laws, or any express regulation of the Society.

Resolved, That the bye-law, No. 3, be rescinded, and the following adopted:

No person shall be balloted for to be a member of the Society, unless in the presence of at least one of the members who proposed him, who shall, before ballot, pay to the register the admission fee, whether as life or annual member; and if such person shall not be put in election, at the farthest, at the next meeting after the day on which he might have been elected, he shall not then be considered as having been at all proposed.

That the life subscriptions of members be 20 guineas; or in case the candidate shall not be desirous to pay such life composition, such candidate shall deposit a fee of five guineas previous to the ballot, and pay two guineas on admission, as an annual subscription, such annual subscription to become payable in advance, on each first day of January; and that persons admitted on these terms shall cease to be members if at any time their annual subscriptions shall be one year in arrear, unless the party so in arrear shall make a declaration in writing to the council, that he has been absent from Ireland during the period for which the arrear has been incurred, and until he shall have paid up all arrears.

Resolved, That the bye-law, No. 12, be rescinded, and the following adopted:

That "associate subscribers" be admitted to the Society for the term of one year, upon recommendation in writing of five members of the Society, one of whom to be a vice-president or honorary secretary, on payment of two guineas, which payment must be made at the time of admission.

That such associate subscribers shall not be incorporated members of the Society, nor shall they be permitted to be present at the meetings of the Board or of any committee, nor to vote or interfere with the management of the affairs or property of the Society.

Each associate subscriber shall, before his admission, sign a declaration explanatory of the terms upon which he is to be admitted as an associate subscriber, containing a copy of this bye-law, and an engagement to acquiesce in the regulations of the Society; and the Society shall have the power, if it think fit, to exclude any such associate subscriber who may violate such regulations, or be guilty of any improper conduct.

Associate subscribers shall have free access to the library, as enjoyed by the members, excepting that no books shall be removed from the room. They shall have in like manner access to all lectures and exhibitions within the Society's premises, to the botanic garden, museum, galleries, and lawn.

Resolved, That the bye-law, No. 27, be amended, by adding the following words:

That the lending out of scientific books from the library to members of the Society shall be subject to such restrictions and regulations as the library committee may deem proper.

Resolved, That the sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 20 of the bye-law, No. 29, relating to the appointment of standing committees, be rescinded.

That section 5 be rescinded, and the following substituted:

5. That one week, at least, before the day of ballot, the assistant secretary shall prepare and place in the conversation and board-rooms, printed lists of the names of members belonging to the several committees of the previous year who shall have attended one-third of the meetings of said committees; and further, that so many eligible names as shall, together with the names returned, make the total number of 15, be selected by each committee respectively, to be submitted to the judgment of the Society.

That section 8 of said bye-law (No. 29) be varied by expunging the words "upon

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"upon the next Thursday," and inserting instead the words "at the next meeting of the Society," seven days' notice of which to be posted.

Resolved, That the bye-law, No. 41, be rescinded.

Resolved, That the several committees be chosen annually by ballot; the first election of whom shall be made at the first monthly meeting of the Society which shall take place next after the confirmation of this bye-law; and every future election shall be made on the first monthly meeting of the Society in December in each year; that each committee shall choose its chairman, who, with one other member thereof, to be also elected by each committee respectively, within one week after the election of such committee, shall be members of the council.

That the council shall consist of the seven vice-presidents and two honorary secretaries, the chairman and one other member of each committee, to be elected as before stated, and of nine members to be elected by ballot, by and from the Society at large; such last-mentioned election to be held at the monthly meeting which shall next ensue after the election of the committees, as aforesaid, seven days previous to which each committee shall return the names of their chairman and other member, by them elected to the council; such lists to be posted in the Society's public room.

That the vice-presidents and honorary secretaries are to be considered *ex-officio* members of each committee.

That in case any vacancy shall occur in the council, or in any of the committees, such vacancy shall be filled up by the same mode of election, and by the same body who elected the individual who filled the office so vacant. Such election to be held at the next meeting of the body having such power of election which shall be held after such vacancy.

That one-fourth of the council go out annually. This rotation to be effected by requiring that the second member to be nominated by each committee shall be a different person from the members so elected the preceding year.

Resolved, That besides the stated general meetings prescribed by charter, general meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Thursday in November and first Thursday in December, and on last Thursday in each of the other months during the Society's sittings.

Resolved, That no motion shall be entertained (except a motion of reference) at any meeting of the Society of which notice shall not have been handed to the assistant secretary, and posted by him in the conversation-room, one week at least previous to such meeting.

Resolved, That the foregoing bye-laws, now agreed to, together with those agreed to on the 9th and 16th instant, be taken into consideration at the next stated general meeting in March next, to be then confirmed or rejected.

REPORT of the Selected Committee respecting the delivery of Lectures in Provincial Towns, by the Professors of the Society, as recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Commons, which Report was approved and confirmed by the Society, on Thursday the 7th December 1837.

The selected committee, in reporting on the reference made to them on Thursday last, from the Society, of a letter from the secretary to the Wicklow Association for Promoting General Knowledge, inquiring whether the Royal Dublin Society proposes sending lecturers to such provincial towns in Ireland as have literary or scientific associations, and may apply for the same, have to state, that they find in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons a recommendation, "That the Royal Dublin Society should be enabled, on application, to send down qualified persons to give lectures in the provincial towns, whenever the travelling expenses of the lecturer and a reasonable proportion of his remuneration shall be locally subscribed by the parties making the application."

On which the Society resolved, on the 10th November 1836, and communicated their resolution to the Lords of the Treasury, and to the Government here, "That the Society should adopt this recommendation and be prepared to act upon it, whenever any local institutions, such as are therein referred to, should take the necessary steps for enabling the Royal Dublin Society to meet their wishes."

 That

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That the select committee can perceive no objection to the professors of the Society, after their courses of lectures have been delivered in Dublin, accepting of short temporary engagements in provincial towns; but that as the Society has not been enabled by the allocation of funds in the year's estimate to provide for more than the regular salaries of the professors, the committee is of opinion that the terms and conditions of such engagements should for the present be left for settlement between the professors themselves and the local societies who may desire their services.

Richard Hemphill, Chairman.

Courses of evening lectures by the professors have been delivered, and others are in course of being delivered, in conformity with the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, free to the public, besides having scientific meetings of the Society monthly, to which strangers are admissible by tickets.

Royal Dublin Society,
21 December 1837.

Ed. Hardman, Assist. Secretary.

DUBLIN SOCIETY.

COPIES of COMMUNICATIONS between the IRISH GOVERNMENT, the TREASURY, and the ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, since the Report of the Committee.

(Mr. W. S. O'Brien.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
2 *February* 1838.

105.

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